

Subcommittee Issues

Department of Corrections

- Provide a Table of Organization, a brief synopsis of each program or function within the Department of Corrections (DOC), including FTE positions and dollars, and quantitative measures of success.
- Salary Shortfall -There is a salary shortage across State government during FY 2001, primarily due to health insurance costs exceeding projected increased costs. The shortfall is approximately \$22.8 million for State government; the DOC's share is approximately \$3.4 million. How is the DOC and CBC District Departments managing this shortfall. Is the Department holding positions vacant to fund salary costs for current staff?
- Salary Issues-The CBC District Departments have delayed filling most of the new Probation/Parole Officer positions that were authorized for FY 2001 due to salary shortages. However, four of the eight CBC District Department boards approved additional retirement benefits (converting sick leave hourly balance to pay the partial cost of health insurance upon retirement) for exempt staff, which increases salary costs. What are the costs for these additional benefits on an annual basis for the next 3 years?
- Hiring of Staff Authorized for FY 2001 -Treating the Institutions and CBC districts separately, provide a status report on the tilling of new FTE positions authorized for FY 2001. Provide information on the timing of the hirings, actual personnel costs for these positions compared to the budgeted costs, and other information on factors affecting the hiring process.
- CBC Supervision Fees - The General Assembly established a flat \$250 fee in FY 2001 for people on parole or probation. This flat fee replaced the graduated fee based on offense severity implemented in FY 1998. The change was estimated to increase local income by \$1.3 million. The FY 2001 General Fund budgets were reduced to offset the projected increase in local income. Please provide the amount of local income generated by supervision fees since its inception in FY 1998.
- Drug Courts -The Drug Court Program was established in the Fifth CBC District Department in FY 1996. The Program was established for high-risk substance abuse addicts as an alternative to prison or jail. Drug court programs are funded in the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth CBC District Departments and in the planning stages for the four remaining CBC District Departments. The Fourth and Fifth CBC District Departments have the traditional Drug Court Program (judicial model) that has a case management team comprised of a local prosecutor, a defense attorney, CBC staff, substance abuse treatment staff, and the active participation of a judge. The Second and Third CBC District Departments are using citizen review panels composed of community volunteers in lieu of a judge. The judge provides a list of sanctions the community panels may impose and administratively reviews the community panel's sanction decision. For FY 2002, the First and Seventh CBC District Departments are requesting \$500,000 to implement the traditional drug court while the Sixth CBC District Department is requesting \$250,000 to implement a community panel model. The Governor is recommending an increase of \$465,000 and 6.0 FTE positions for this proposal. Please review these two alternative models, the program costs and effectiveness, including successful program completions, and type of clients being served.
- Replacing Expired Federal Grants -Institutions and CBC District Departments seek federal grants to create, expand, or enhance treatment programs. The Office of Drug Control Policy funds are awarded annually, and State agencies are limited to a maximum of four years of funding for a specific program. Once these grants expire, the Institutions and CBC District Departments seek General Fund appropriations to replace the federal funds, The FY 2002

Subcommittee Issues

General Fund budget request includes \$442,000 to replace expired federal grants. The Governor is recommending this proposal. It is anticipated that more funds will be requested in future fiscal years. The FY 2002 budgets include \$2.9 million in federal grants, plus \$1.4 million in federal pass-through funding from other State agencies. Please provide information on program costs and effectiveness, including successful program completions, and type of clients being served. Also, evaluations of programs funded by the grants, any accreditation reports conducted by the DOC or other agencies, other program data, and alternative funding sources.

- Evaluation of Programs -Treatment programs addressing substance abuse, domestic abuse, sexual offenses, cognitive reasoning deficiencies, and other criminal problems need to be evaluated for effectiveness in rehabilitation and in deterring future crime. Likewise, the Department's education and inmate labor programs need to be examined to determine their rehabilitative impact. Please review the DOC's program evaluation and/or accreditation process.
- Mandatory Parole for Sex Offenders -The DOC is advocating mandatory two-year supervision for all inmates convicted under Chapter 709, Code of Iowa. The CBC District Departments are requesting an increase of \$576,000 and 12.0 FTE positions for this proposal. The Governor is recommending an increase of \$504,000 and 12.0 FTE positions for this proposal. Please discuss this issue in terms of community risk.
- Chapter 901B, Code of Iowa, requires each CBC District Department to have an intermediate criminal sanctions plan approved by the Chief Judge. Section 7.8, HF 2552 (Justice System Appropriations Act) requires each District Department to file a report on its plan with the General Assembly by January 8, 2000. Review the plans, including effectiveness of the sanctions and early discharge policies.
- County Confinement-The Department is requesting an increase of \$800,000 (152.6%) for this appropriation. The Account reimburses counties for holding parole, work release, and Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) offenders who are held in local jails pending revocation hearings. If revoked to prison, the offender is held in the local jail until transported to the Iowa Medical Classification Center at Oakdale. Please review the administration of this appropriation including:
 - . Amount of time held in jail pending a revocation hearing.
 - . Amount of time held in jail upon being revoked to prison.
 - . Average per diem rates charged by the counties.
 - . Revocation rates for parole, work release, and Operating While Intoxicated programs.
 - . Claims process (amount of time from when the bill is received by the State until it is paid by the State).

The Governor is recommending a decrease of \$91,000 for the County Confinement Account. The Governor is recommending statutory changes to limit the per diem rate paid to the counties to \$25.00 for direct variable costs. Current law requires the DOC to negotiate a per diem rate with each county.

- Growth of the Inmate Population -According to the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division of the Department of Human Rights, the Iowa prison population is projected to reach 12,400 inmates by FY 2010 if current correctional policies and laws remain in place. If the inmate population reaches 12,400, five new 750-bed prisons will need to be built at a cost of \$45.0 million per prison. Each prison will incur annual operating costs of approximately

Subcommittee Issues

\$25.0 million. Please provide alternatives to building new prisons. Please provide information on alternatives to building prisons.

- **Federal Bureau of Prisons Contract** - House File 2039 (FY 2000 Deappropriations Act) authorized the DOC to contract with the federal Bureau of Prisons to house federal prisoners and county jail inmates. Receipts in excess of direct expenditures are required to be deposited in the General Fund. Projected General Fund receipts were \$2.0 million for FY 2001. The DOC has entered into a 10-year agreement with the federal Bureau of Prisons to house federal detainees. The Governor is budgeting \$2.6 million (96 inmates x \$74.00 per day x 365 days) in new General Fund revenue generated from the contract. Please provide information: the number and type of federal inmates held, the amount of revenues and expenses generated, amount retained by the DOC to offset expenses, plus the impact on overcrowding in the prison system.
- **Progress on Specialized Expansions** - The Subcommittee may want an update on the progress for the Special Needs Unit at Fort Madison, the medical unit expansion at Oakdale, the 36-bed addition at the Dubuque Residential Facility, and the 25-bed women's facility in Council Bluffs. The Council Bluffs project was downsized from an original 50 beds. The update includes: funding sources for construction, and construction costs, current projected opening dates, staffing costs, and treatment options, if any, that are provided with the new beds. Discuss any future expansions of prisons or residential facilities. The Governor is recommending an increase of \$255,000 and 18.9 FTE positions to open residential beds in Dubuque and Council Bluffs and annualize four staff plus provide utilities for the Special Needs Unit at Fort Madison. The Governor is recommending that full staffing and operating costs for the Special Needs Unit occur in FY 2003. The DOC estimates those costs to be \$6.1 million and 114.0 FTE positions.
- **Inmate Labor** - Inmates who are employed in private sector jobs pay to offset incarceration costs. In FY 1998, the Institutions' General Fund budgets were reduced by \$1.8 million and the Institutions were permitted to retain funds paid by the inmates. Beginning in FY 2001, the Institutions' General Fund budgets were increased by \$1.8 million and the inmate payments are deposited in the State General Fund. Receipts through November 2000 were \$332,000, which is a decrease of \$253,000 (43.2%) compared to the first five months of FY 2000. The decrease is primarily due to fewer inmates being employed by the private sector. There were 191.8 inmates employed by the private sector in November 2000; this is 149.2 (43.7%) fewer inmates employed compared to November 1999. Please provide an update on the inmate employment situation, particularly in light of the current labor shortage, the revenues generated from inmate employment, and the effectiveness of inmate employment for rehabilitation and reduction of recidivism. For background, provide a description of the employment of inmates by private sector companies for FY 1999, FY 2000, and FY 2001, including the companies and types of work, number of inmates employed by company, actual revenues, and the distribution of the revenues. Discuss the factors affecting inmate employment, future trends, and measurement of the effectiveness of the Program.
- **Prison Farms** -Provide locations of all farms, amount of land rented versus worked at each farm, update on the last two years' activities, and future plans for using inmates on the farms. Review the following issues in relation to the farms:
 - . Creation of jobs for inmates.
 - . Rental of farmland versus operating the farms.
 - . Type of products.
 - . Potential use of truck farms to offset food costs in the Institutions.

Subcommittee Issues

- Telephone Rebate Funds -The inmates of the DOC Institutions use a pay telephone system for personal calls. The recipient pays for the charges of all of these collect calls, and the DOC receives the net receipts (rebates) from the vendor. The Code of Iowa requires the receipts to be used to benefit the inmates. Revenues have been steadily decreasing while expenditures have been steadily increasing. Revenues were \$2.4 million in FY 1998, \$2.4 million in FY 1999, \$1.0 million in FY 2000, and \$1.0 million budgeted in FY 2001. Expenditures were \$1.3 million in FY 1998, \$2.0 million in FY 1999, \$2.1 million in FY 2000, and \$1.9 million budgeted in FY 2001. Revenues and expenditures are estimated for FY 2001. Please review the administration of this fund and a synopsis of the impact of the Governor's recommended statutory changes to this Fund.
- The DOC eliminated the law libraries at each Institution. The DOC contracts with the State Public Defender's Office to provide legal services to inmates by private attorneys. These contracts are funded with telephone rebate receipts. Please review the effectiveness of this policy.
- Fort Madison Medical Services Contract-The Department discontinued the contract with a private sector firm for medical services. Fort Madison's FY 2001 budget was reduced \$206,000 and 26.5 FTE positions were added to reflect this change. Review the process of converting contract staff to State employees, if all positions are filled, if projected savings were realized, and consider the impact on the quality of medical services available to the inmates.
- State contracts-Review the types of personal services that the DOC and CBC contract, such as medical services, data processing services. Are these contracts more beneficial than simply hiring State employees? Comparison of hourly rate.
- Mental Health -The DOC is working with the University of Iowa College of Medicine and the Iowa Consortium of Mental Health Board to review the present DOC mental health system, determine the needs of that system, and seek resources to address the mental health needs of inmates. The Board of Corrections approved a motion that the DOC should continue planning a mental health ~~delivery~~ system at its November 2000 meeting. The Subcommittee may wish to review this issue with the DOC. Has the DOC considered working with the DHS as well as the U of I College of Medicine?